**Washington, D.C.** – Congresswoman Betty McCollum (MN-04) today released the following statement honoring U.S. Army Specialist Gregory Rendell of North St. Paul, who lost his life in combat in Iraq on Wednesday, March 26, 2008:

"The family and loved ones of Specialist Gregory B. Rundell are facing sad and difficult times, and all Minnesotans share in their grief. I extend my prayers and thoughts to his family.

Specialist Rundell will be honored and remembered for his selfless sacrifice for a grateful nation. His mother, Joanne, describes her son standing "tall and brave" for others, and his sacrifice exemplifies his family's remarkable commitment to military service, including service by his grandfather, uncle and brothers. It comes as no surprise that Specialist Rundell's desire to serve extended beyond the military to his plans for a career as a law enforcement officer.

Having raised my family in North St. Paul, Specialist Rundell's death hits particularly close to home. We mourn his loss as a community, and we share our deepest sympathies with all of his family and friends."

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